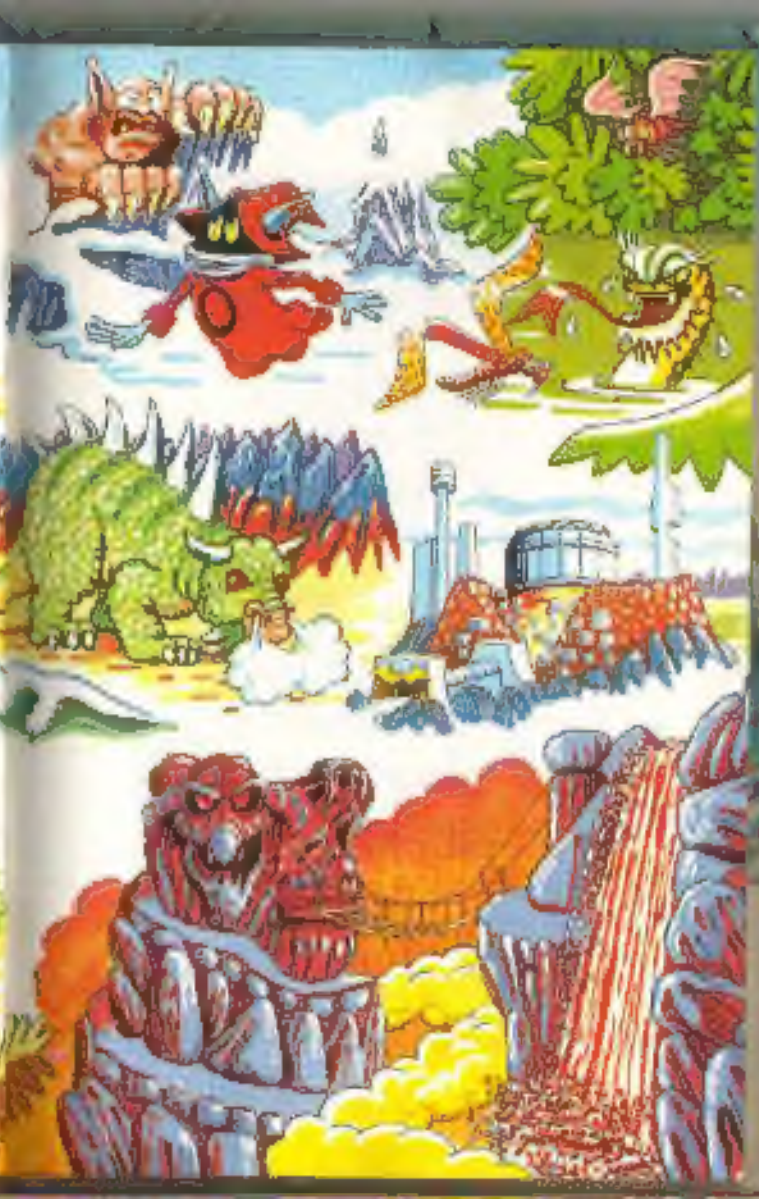


MASTERS

OF THE UNIVERSE™

Skeletor's Ice Attack





Might goes hand in hand with right as He-Man and the Masters of the Universe fight to make their planet safe. The greatest of their enemies is Skeletor, The Lord of Destruction, and his evil hand, whose hatred for their foes is never-ending. The war goes on but who will win?

Fast delivery

LADYBIRD BOOKS LTD MCMLXXXIX and MATTEL INC MCMLXXIV

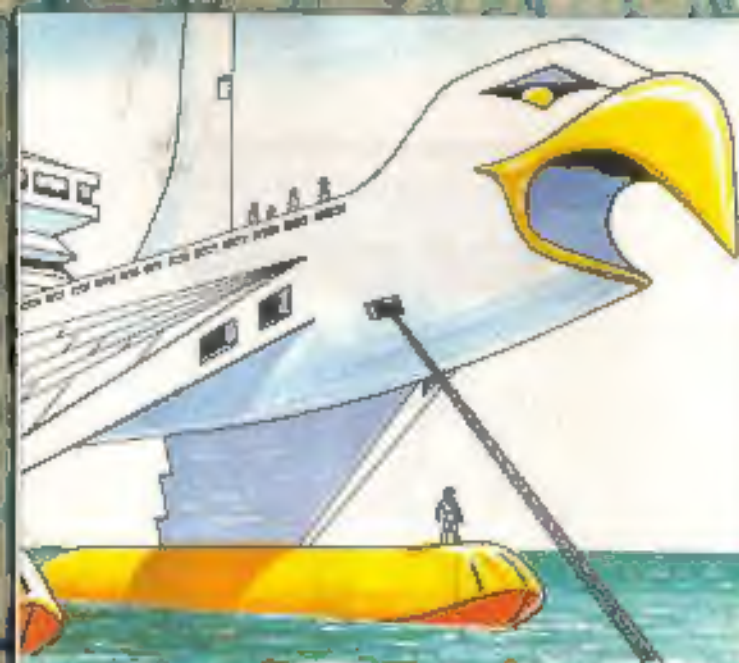


Skeletor's Ice Attack

by John Grant

Illustrated by Nathan Upvies

Ladybird Beetle: Loughborough



It was a bright, sunny day in the port of Randorhaven. Flags waved in the sea breeze, and crowds lined the quayside to cheer as King Randor and Queen Markena prepared to embark in the royal ship, *Sea Eagle*. Their son Prince Adam was with them, and also his childhood friend, Teela. The royal family stepped into the royal hover-barge and were swiftly ferried across the harbour. With a bearing of drums and fanfares of trumpets they went aboard *Sea*

Eagle. The King and Queen and even Teela greeted the captain with proper dignity. But King Randor frowned at Prince Adam who was too excited at the thought of the summer holiday in the Golden Isles. He laughed and shouted, and waved to the sailors and the crowd on shore, who waved and shouted back. No one suspected that the happy-go-lucky prince was also He-Man, mightiest man in the Universe.



The decks of *Sea Eagle* bustled with activity as the crew prepared for sea. Baggage was taken below. The passengers were shown to their cabins. The royal hover-barge returned to shore.



No one noticed a sinister shape lurking in the shadows close to the hull of *Sea Eagle*. It was part-human, but covered in scales: one of the Sea-People, a servant of Mer-Man, Lord of the Sea.

His head above water, the evil creature strained his ears as the crew spoke amongst themselves.

"Looks like bring a good voyage."

"Yes. I always enjoy the trip to the Golden Isles."

"I hope the weather stays calm for His Majesty and family."

"Right. Now let's get this gear stowed. We sail with the tide."

Even before *Sea Eagle* had weighed anchor, or before the officers on the bridge had set the electronic sail controls, the spy was already speeding under water towards the caverns of the Sea-People.

Far below the surface, Mer-Man sat in the dim green light of his underwater lair. He wanted power. But to gain power he needed to find favour with his master, Skeletor, Lord of Destruction. Suddenly there was a commotion outside. Two guards came in, escorting a

panicking sea-creature. He threw himself at Mer-Man's feet.

"Master!" he gasped. "Your enemies have set sail in a ship. Their course is towards the Golden Isles!"

Mer-Man jumped to his feet. "Alone on the sea. They are at my mercy. This must be reported to My Lord Skeletor immediately."

Within seconds, word came back from the Lord of Destruction. "Capture the royal family of Eternia and hold them to ransom. And this time, don't bungle it in your usual way!"





Quickly Mer-Man issued his orders. Then, on a giant monitor screen he watched as the *Sea Eagle* sped across the surface of the sea, the hull just above the waves. Mer-Man pointed to a chart carved on the rock wall of the cavern. "By nightfall, the ship will have reached this point. That is where I shall set my trap."

Through the slimy caverns and passages of the undersea world the Sea-People hurried to the assembly point. Each was armed with a zero-energy projector.

At a command from Mer-Man the outer gates of his fortress were thrown open. In a shimmering column of scaly bodies his people glided swiftly through the green depths to intercept *Sea Eagle* and her royal passengers.



The sun had set below the horizon when Mer-Man halted his people. Rising carefully just above the water he scanned the surface of the sea. In the last of the light he could just make out the gleam of sails as the royal ship sailed straight into Mer-Man's trap.

On board, King Randor and Prince Adam had joined the captain on the bridge. All was quiet. Lights flickered on the navigation panel. The wheel was on automatic pilot. Only occasionally an officer adjusted the sail controls as the wind changed slightly. The King and his son went to their cabins, and the great ship flew across the waves and into the gathering darkness.



Mer-Man took one last look. Then he gave the command. The Sea-People spread out into a wide circle, and as the *Sea Eagle* reached the centre they aimed their weapons and fired.

As the zero-energy was released the sea began to freeze. A thin film of ice formed around the ship. It grew thicker. It formed into hummocks and pinacles. Soon, the *Sea Eagle* was trapped in the middle of a giant ice-floe. Mer-Man dismissed his people, then waited to decide his next move.

On the bridge of *Sea Eagle* the instruments showed the speed of the ship rapidly dropping. The captain ordered powerful searchlights to be switched on. At first there was nothing to see. Then one of the sailors cried out, "Captain, look at the sea! There's something happening to it!" The waves had stopped moving. "The sea is freezing," cried the captain. "We must break out. Set more sail." But even as the controls were adjusted the ice was growing thicker, and piling up around the ship.

Sea Eagle was trapped and helpless. The passengers and crew dressed in cold-weather gear and examined the ice from the deck.

"We must try to blast our way out," said the captain. The ship's weapons were trained on the ice, but even after several minutes firing, they had no effect. When dawn came, the ship was held as firmly as before.





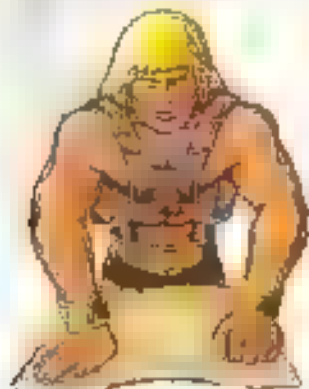
In his cabin, Prince Adam was thinking about the situation. "This is the work of Skeletor, or one of his evil band," he said to himself. "It is time for the Masters of the Universe to take a hand." He pulled the Sword of Power from its hiding place among his clothes in a chest. Unsheathing the Sword he cried:

"BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL!"

...and was instantly transformed into He-Man.

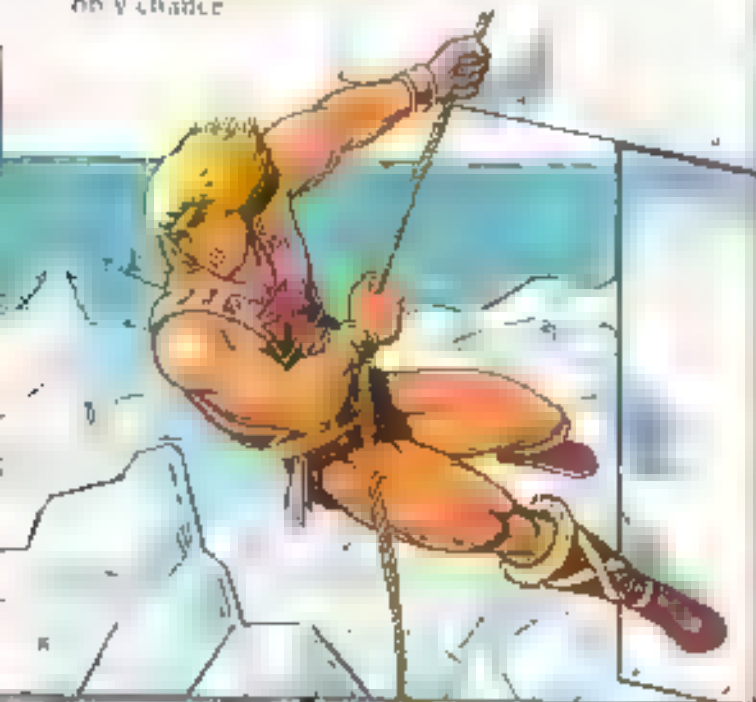
Using the power of the blade he sent out a powerful tele-summons to Man-at-Arms back at Castle Grayskull to join him secretly in "Talon Fighters." Then he made his way stealthily to the ship's chart room. There, after a quick search, he found the chart he was looking for. Then he hurried back to his cabin to study it and complete his plans.





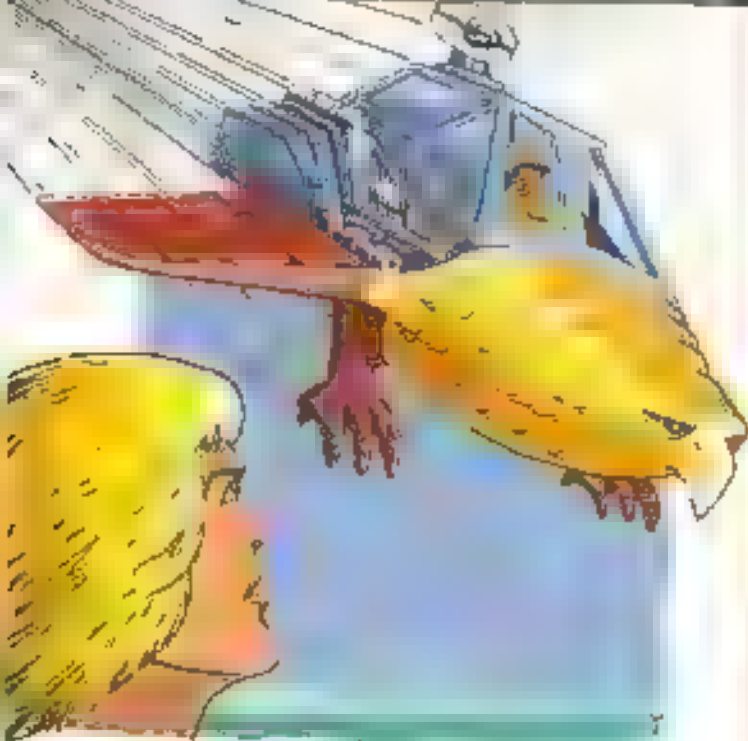
With the chart spread
on the cabin table, He
Man worked out the
position of Sea Eagle.
Then he thought:
While the ship is
trapped in the ice we
may be attacked at any
time. There is only one
way to men an ice-blue

hell. We must try to harness the power of
Inferno. That is a long way off. But it is our
only chance.



Recoiled the chart and tucking it into his
belt, He Man slipped out of the cabin and
down the deck. It was deserted as the passengers and crew
were below decks out of sight. He could hear
the ship's rail and climbed down it.

The ice was thick and a great, unbroken mass.
After a few minutes He Man was out of sight of the
ship. But he did not know it. He came to the
water's edge where the ship was floe and a crunch
even as he did so the Swallow Power began to
pulse with light as it picked up a warning
signal from Talon Fighter.

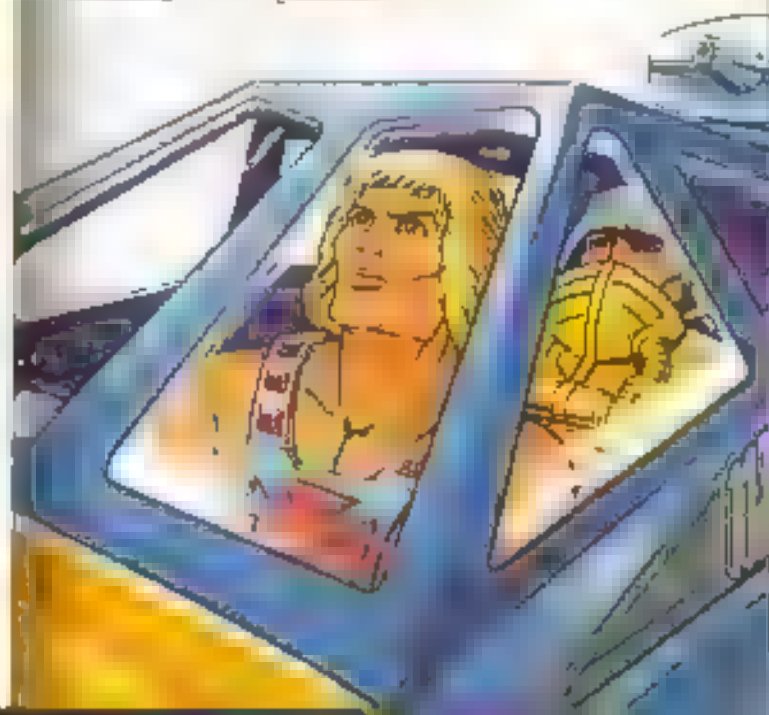


He didn't know the reason why the Man
 wanted to fly the last step of the fighter
 from far off in space but the sea to the
 prison. He saw the ship as the Man. As the
 engine power was switched on, it was a fast
 sleek glider close above the waves and he got
 from the Sea Forge Lyne. The Sea Forge Lyne
 was a thrust and the ship went down
 and the ship was close to the Man.

Man at Arms stepped out of the ship and
 grasped the Man by the hand. The ship was
 moved is the work of that green and he makes
 the Man. I saw a lot of activity below the waves
 as I flew over.

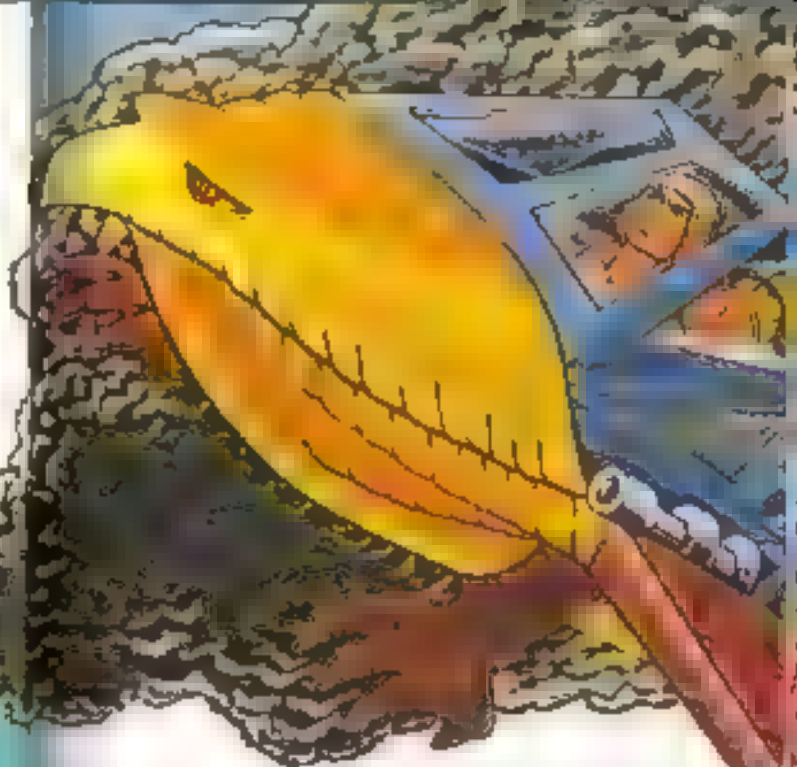
He then showed Man at Arms the ship.
 I don't know exactly who the Man is but he
 he plotting, he said. But we have not a
 moment to lose.

With the Man, the controls. Tison Fighter
 fired from the sea and the ship was a
 shining spark against the sky.



With his controls locked on to the course,
a ready workman. By He Man, from the
oceanward shore. Lagoon lighter flared through
the sky. Soon the ice floe and the imprisoned
sea fogs were left far behind. The Man at a sea
is even reaching the horizon. Then the crew
cut a course for the island.

Soon they could make out the smoking
up. The smoke was thick and rose in a column
higher even than the light. The Man
looked at the smoke and made a wide circle
around it.



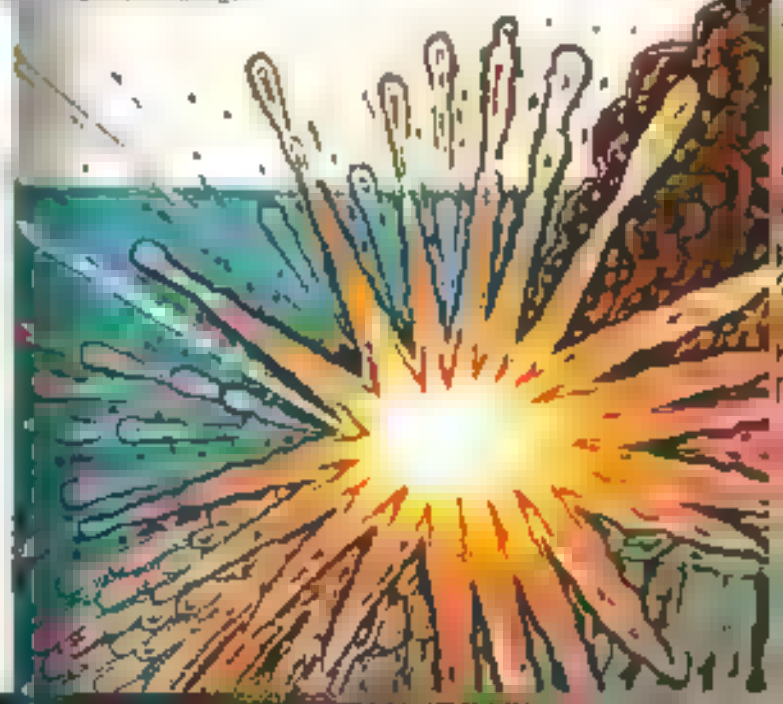
Then he saw the light. He saw a deep awe
that was in the center of the
valley. The creature and the light
but it was rising from the fire island. I
looked at the Man's light strength to hold a
steady course. The light was the state where
water was pushed and moved. The
light was the



He Man curled the volcano once more. Then
 in a swing he brought him to a position where
 his feet were in the water and his hands were
 on the volcano. Then he brought his hands down
 and then the Man pressed the firing buttons on the
 sides of the volcano. White hot sparks came
 from the muzzles and flames of black fire
 came from the top of the volcano. The Man
 stepped back. As the Man jumped up
 and away from the volcano the water side of the
 volcano was covered with a

burning river across the island. Water then
 he was in water under with great clouds of
 sea. Then the burning water moved out from
 the island. A current of the steaming water was
 a ready-made bridge in the center of the sea.
 The water then it was a bridge for the Man
 to walk on it.

Running across the water the Man fought
 the water. Then the Man at Arms said
 to him. The water was now a bridge
 and water was in the sea. He then said to
 the Man. The water was now a bridge
 and water was in the sea.



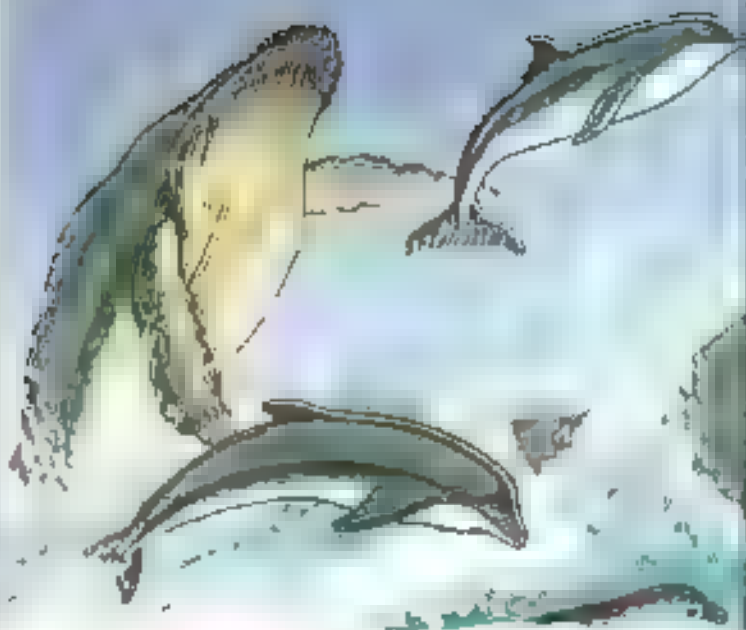
He Man brought Tavor Eighty to a house just above the ice. The house was on the water. Man at Arms again took to the air. His job was to keep watch on the activities of the Sea People.

Boarding the ship in the same way as he had left it, He Man hurried to find Teela and explain what the Sea Man at Arms had been doing. As the Water Goddess, her powers were almost equal to his own. In the water, he helped. The warm sea currents were moving in. Now, he explained, "We must go—meet it. While Mei Man has power and great numbers of the sea creatures of the sea, there are many of whom he is not master. The warm, flowing sea dwellers are as his enemies. Perhaps they will come to our aid. Will you try?"

"Yes," replied Teela. "I can reach through the clouds by my light energy. They will do as I ask."



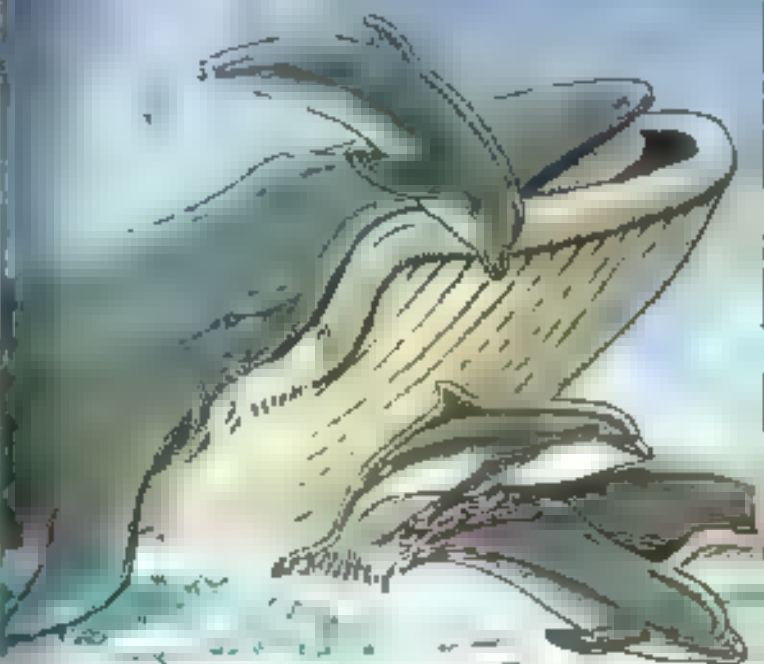
Following He Man, Teela climbed down on to the ice. They looked for a high place and found an ice pinnacle. He Man helped Teela to stand on top of it. Then she raised her Kobra scepter above her head. As her thought energy flowed into it, the eyes began to pulse with power.



Soon the eyes on the creature glowed steadily and brightly. Teela closed her eyes and began to transmit a telepathic message by the power of her mind.

**I, TEELA, WARRIOR GODDESS
SUMMON YOU WHO HAVE WARM
BLOOD BY MY MAND OF THE LORD
OF THE MAN.**

As Ma scanned the waves, something moved. Again Teela sent out the message. And again.



Then far off there appeared a puff of vapour above the water. Then another. And another. A school of whales was approaching. A herd of walruses suddenly surfaced close to the creature, its arms reaching over the crests of the waves. And a school of narwhals followed quickly. More and more whales, walruses, dolphins, porpoises, and a large herd of seals joined them. In her mind Teela heard their thoughts.

**COMMAND US, TEELA. WE ARE HERE
TO DO YOUR BIDDING.**

He Man looked at the animals as they
lighted beside the ice-floe.

"Now," he said, "I feel a great strength
push against the ice."

Again, with a gasp, he heard a scarp and
again the eyes glowed as she sent out more mind
energy.

"USE YOURS. BEND THE PUSH AGAINST
THE ICE."



With a great thrashing of tails and
flippers the whales, walrus, dolphins, porpoises
and seals pushed back. A great pushing
together. Then slowly the great ice floe began
to move. Gathers speed, leading straight on
the warm current flowing east from the star.

Again He Man stared the surface of the sea
for any sign of Mer Man. But the Sea People
were keeping quiet. It might be because Ma and Arms
was a strange sight. There was nothing more than
the Man and the two children for the moment
the Ma and Arms. "You go home to be safe. I will
get Ma and Arms to pick me up."

He waited until the sun had gone down and
the moon was once more and made his way
unseen back to the ship as well.

Far away, over a Snake Mountain, Skeator Lord of Deira-hor was uneasy. He decided to spy on his star wings and returned in a few minutes. A scream as he landed in to Mer Man.

A first he looked at thought Mer Man was winning, he saw. To the scene a few began of action trapped in the air. Below the surface of the sea was his head surrounded by his wings.

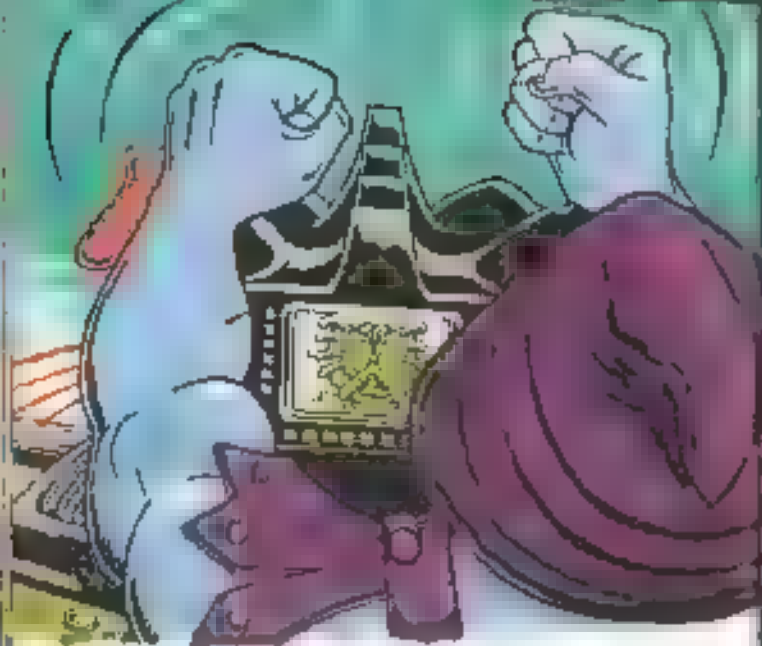
But when Skeator looked again, he saw that the merman was. An Eagle was trapped.

was itself, having taken from the undersea army.

Skeator screamed with rage, and his wings fled in terror. "That foul!" he roared. "His bungling will bring disaster to us all!"

Knowing all that, Skeator, young leaves, he raced out, a few fast and steady, however. His Kat in was ready for him, prepared for take-off. Sea, a long time to go before Skeator leapt aboard, and a ship, a mer was laughing across the churning out to sea.





From a distance Skeeter spotted the trapped Sea Eagle. As he got closer he saw the great mass of ice blocking the ice floe. Determinate to know what was happening Skeeter called up Mer Man.

Mer Man's face appeared on the cockpit video screen.

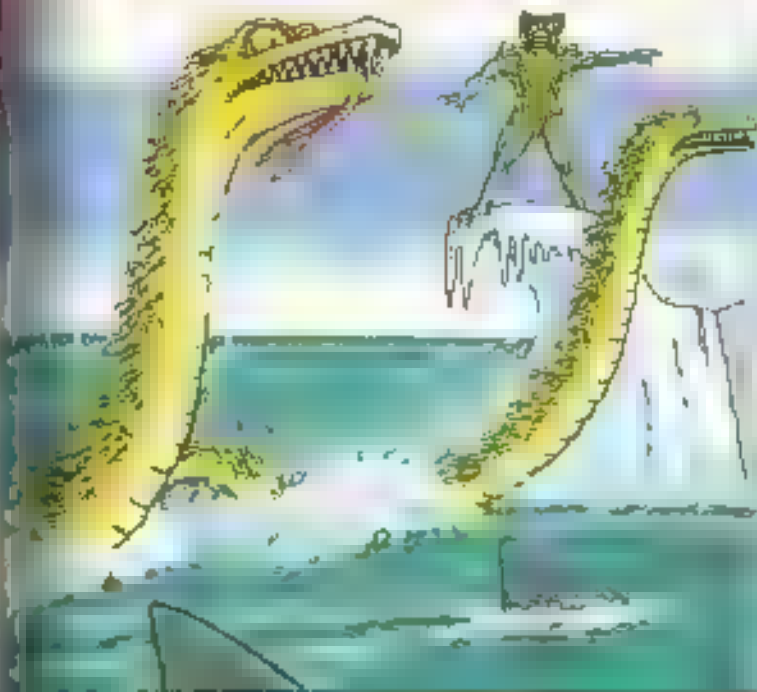
You speakless jelly fish! Skeeter cracked. This is some trick of the Masters of the Universe. Do something about it.

I'll order my warriors. I'll start melting Mer Man.

Warning! Warning! sea urchins! video Skeeter. Summon chi shaka sting rays sea serpents to attack. And never let an ocean liner.

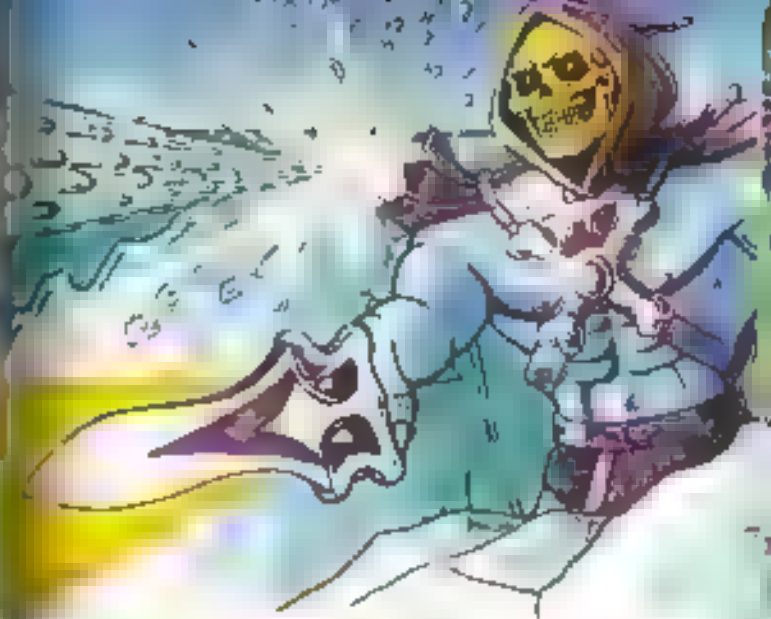
Mer Man did as he was ordered, climbing on to the ice to direct operations.

Skeeter watched with satisfaction as a swarm of sharks, sting rays and sea serpents accosted the attack. Then he guided the Ro in a to night on the ice. He said his goodnight with Mer Man.



As the Koton skiff rode a strand of Skeleron
 captives and climbed on to another hammock.
 He saw Mer Man standing on brother
 hammock. And he also saw the sharks, sting
 rays and sea serpents fleeing in all directions.

A school of highly intelligent whale whales had
 been passing a clear-cut trail of bubbles
 as they pushed the ice floe. Now they joined
 the attack, and gleaming quickly joined by the
 long-tusked walrus.



Mer Man shouted after them in rage
 "Away! Come back!" And he a red, white and blue
 his energy weapon into the waves, but could not
 stop the retreat.

Before long, with age Skeleron proved a
 wound. Mer Man then it was, when as they
 stopped. The ice was melting. The floe was
 breaking up.

Mer Man and his crew were pulled and some
 two or three were battered it out in the wet
 idyllic scene, looking out among the
 crumbling hammocks.



At the sound of battle the passengers and crew of *Sea Eagle* rushed on deck. Already they could feel the air becoming milder as the ice melted.

They saw Mer-Man fire once again at Skeletor. Mer-Man slipped on the ice. He sprawled full-length and his weapon flew from his hand. It slid along the ice and over the edge. Weaponless, Mer-Man decided to follow. In a hail of shots from Skeletor he dived into the water and disappeared.

Alone on the ice, Skeletor made to escape in the *Rotun*. But he had left it too late. The ice floe was already breaking into fragments. A wide lane of water separated him from his machine which drifted farther off even as he watched.

The ice under Skeletor's feet gave a lurch. The piece upon which he was standing had broken free of the main floe and was drifting off, carrying him with it.



Standing by the ship's rail, Prince Adam and Teela watched Skeletor's plight. "I feel almost sorry for him," said Teela.

Skeletor clung in terror to the rapidly shrinking piece of ice. "Mer-Man!" he screamed. "I command you to come to my aid! I am your lord and master!"



There was a swirl in the water. But it was not Mer-Man. One of the killer whales was in a playful mood. It swam close. Then it dived under Skeletor, making the ice rock violently.

Again Skeletor shouted for Mer-Man.

Adam turned to Teela. "Mer-Man is not the bravest of creatures," he said. "Skeletor is going to be very cold and wet before Mer-Man plucks up courage to face him, let alone rescue him."





The last piece of ice drifted clear of *Sen Eagle*. The captain shouted an order, and the sails filled to the freshening breeze. The great ship gathered way, faster and faster, until the wind sang in the rigging and she scarcely seemed to touch even the tops of the waves.

The passengers looked astern. Already far behind the last pieces of ice bobbed on the waves. On one the Roton could be seen. And on another the tiny figure of Skeletor waved and shouted for Mer Man.

But Adam, with Teela by his side, was looking at the sky. Away in the distance, he could see a silvery streak against the blue. It was the Talon Fighter returning to Castle Grayskull with Man-at-Arms. The Masters of the Universe had triumphed once again.





Ladybird titles cover a wide range of subjects and reading ages. Write for a free illustrated list from the publishers: **LADYBIRD BOOKS LTD**
Knightsbridge, Lancashire, England

Printed in England

75p
net

ISBN 0-7214-0892-3



9 780721 408927